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SENATOR HILLMAN: Thank you, Madam Chairman, members. I think Senator Raikes has gone into the committee amendments very thoroughly. The only con...there were a few concerns by the Appropriations Committee as far as how the appropriations would be distributed. In looking at the disposal of the a...and what the disposition of the proceeds might be and also that the community college area that is the recipient of the grant and so forth and how it reports to the Legislature. Most those entities Senator Raikes has covered and I would say that would be the summation of the committee amendments.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you. You've heard the opening on the committee amendments. Discussion on the committee amendment, Senator Hudkins.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I have made LB 1173 my priority bill for this session. Senator Raikes has explained the bill via the committee amendments and I'd like to take a minute to explain why I think that the Nebraska Center for Excellence in Electronics is important to Nebraska. Electronics represents a growing industry in Nebraska and an industry that has a great deal of potential. In addition to providing the applied training there's also going to be facility there for conducting required tests on new electronics products. Every product that is manufactured by an electronics firm has to pass a battery of tests to prove that it meets environmental and telecommunications mandates as well as other federal, professional and international standards. One Lincoln business alone currently spends \$40,000 a year in its electronics products testing, but because there are no closer testing facilities that company must send its products to Huntsville, Alabama. Those monies could just as easily be spent in Nebraska if we had a testing facility here, not to mention the probability of attracting similar testing from companies in other states. This center would be the only testing facility of its kind be...and training too center as well, between Denver and Chicago and between Canada and Texas. It's estimated that technology companies contribute \$1.5 billion to Nebraska's economy annually. Efforts to strengthen this sector should be encouraged and this electronics education project has the potential to be the catalyst for expanding our Nebraska